REMARKS

A third Office Action, dated January 22, 2003, rejects pending claims 2, 8, 9, 11-15, 21, 22, and 24-30, and objects to claims 15 and 29. Claim 15 has been cancelled with its allowable subject matter incorporated into independent claims 2, 8, 11 and 21. Claims 2, 8, 9, 11-13, 21, 22, 24, and 27-29 have been amended herein. New claims 31-43 have been added. Applicants maintain that the forgoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance, and they respectfully request the case be passed to issuance.

Formalities

Applicants have corrected the examiner noted discrepancies with claims 8, 9, 13, and 14 as shown regarding the terms "separable key element" and "discrete key element."

Allowable Subject Matter

The examiner has objected to claims 15 and 29 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but indicated that they would be allowable in rewritten in independent format. The amendments herein comply with the examiner's grounds for allowability.

A. On-Axis Printer Component

The examiner has noted that and on-axis ink reservoir in combination with a mounting portion as described in claim 2 is not anticipated nor rendered obvious over any references of record. Applicants maintain that none of these references teach or suggest on-axis printer components, including an on-axis ink reservoir, having keying structures as claimed in claims 2, 8, 11, and 21. Accordingly, applicants have amended independent claims 2, 8, 11, and 21 to include the further limitation that the printer component is an "on-axis" mounted printer component. This should now place claims 2, 8, 11 and 21 in condition for allowance. Moreover, since dependant claims 8, 9, 12-5, 21-22, 24-28, and 31-36 depend on one of these now allowable independent claims, they too should be in condition for allowance.

B. Printhead With Keying Structure

The examiner has also commented that a printhead in combination with the claimed keying structure is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the references of record. Accordingly, applicant has amended claim 29 to place it into independent

format and to include all of the limitation of its base claim and any intervening claim. Accordingly, claim 29 should now be in condition for allowance. Also, new independent claim 41 includes these limitations and it should also be in condition for allowance for the same reasons. Moreover, dependant claims 37-40 and 42-43 depend on one of these now allowable independent claims, they too should be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that all of the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests that the case be passed to issuance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment A to Amendment
(Redlined amendments to claims)

2. (Twice Amended) A mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component with a printer having a carriage, the mechanism comprising:

a printer component mounting portion operably secured to the carriage of the printer;

a separate key element [detachably] secured to said on-axis printer component mounting portion, adjacent to said printer component;

at least one tab extending from the on-axis printer component, said at least one tab positioned and oriented in a defined and unique tab pattern thereby indicating a required characteristic of the on-axis printer component; and

said separate key element having at least one mating slot positioned and aligned to receive said at least one tab, thereby allowing the on-axis printer component to be operably secured to the on-axis printer mounting portion and preventing similarly shaped printer components that have a different tab pattern from being operably secured to the printer component mounting portion.

8. (Twice Amended) [A mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component with a printer comprising:

a printer component mounting portion operably secured to the printer;

a separate key element secured to the component mounting portion, adjacent to said printer component,] A mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component with a printer having a carriage of claim 2, wherein said [separable]separate key element further [including]includes a display surface for visually indicating a required characteristic of the on-axis printer component[;

at least one tab extending from the printer component, said at least one tab positioned and oriented in a defined and unique tab pattern thereby indicating said required characteristic of the printer component; and

said key element having at least one mating slot positioned and aligned to receive said at least one tab, thereby allowing the printer component to be operably secured to the mounting portion and preventing similarly shaped printer components that have a different tab pattern from being operably secured to the printer component mounting portion].

9. (Twice Amended) The mechanism for establishing [printer component] compatibility of an on-axis printer component with a printer having a carriage of claim 8, wherein said display surface has a unique shape, and further including a label displaying surface indicia thereon to indicate said required characteristic of the on-axis printer component and having said unique shape for being operably secured to said display surface.

11. (Third Amended) An inkjet printer comprising:

a chassis;

a motor;

a carriage operably secured to the chassis and driven by the motor for reciprocal movement relative to the chassis;

an on-axis ink reservoir secured to the carriage of the printer at a mounting portion, said on-axis ink reservoir having a unique pattern of tabs extending therefrom thereby indicating a characteristic of the ink received within the on-axis ink reservoir;

a printhead operably secured to the carriage, in fluid communication with said on-axis ink reservoir, and in electrical communication with a controller;

a discrete key element, operably secured to and separable from said mounting portion, said key element having a pattern of slots sized to receive the pattern of tabs extending from the ink reservoir, thereby allowing said ink reservoir to be operably secured to the mounting portion and preventing ink reservoirs having a different pattern of tabs from being operably secured to the first mounting portion.

12. (Third Amended) [An inkjet printer comprising:

a chassis;

a motor;

a carriage operably secured to the chassis and driven by the motor for reciprocal movement relative to the chassis;

an ink reservoir secured to the printer at a mounting portion, said ink reservoir having a unique pattern of tabs extending therefrom thereby indicating a characteristic of the ink received within the reservoir;

a printhead operably secured to the carriage, in fluid communication with said ink reservoir, and in electrical communication with a controller;]The inkjet printer of claim 11, wherein said [a]discrete key element is detachably secured to said mounting

portion[, said key element having a pattern of slots sized to receive the pattern of tabs extending from the ink reservoir, thereby allowing said ink reservoir to be operably secured to the mounting portion and preventing ink reservoirs having a different pattern of tabs from being operably secured to the first mounting portion].

13. (Amended) The inkjet printer of claim [12]11, wherein said [separable]discrete key element includes a unique slot for operably engaging a protrusion extending from said mounting portion, thereby allowing said [separable]discrete key to be secured to said mounting portion, and preventing key elements that are missing said unique slot from being secured to said mounting portion.

14. (Twice Amended) The inkjet printer of claim 11, wherein said [separable]discrete key element further includes a display surface displaying surface indicia thereon for visually indicating said characteristic of the ink received within the reservoir.

15. (Cancelled)

21. (Twice Amended) A mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer having a carriage, said mechanism comprising:

an on-axis printer component mounting portion [operably]secured to the carriage of the printer;

a key element [detachably]secured to the on-axis printer component mounting portion, adjacent to said on-axis printer component, said key element operably engaging the key code of the printer component to allow the on-axis printer component with the defined key code to be operably secured to the on-axis printer component mounting portion.

22. (Twice Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim 21, wherein said key element prevents similarly shaped on-axis printer components that have a different key code thereon from being operably secured to the printer

component mounting portion.

24. (Twice Amended) [A mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer comprising:

a printer component mounting portion operably secured to the printer; and,

a discrete key element attachably secured to the printer component mounting portion, adjacent to said printer component, said key element operably engaging the key code of the printer component to allow the printer component with the defined key code to be operably secured to the printer component mounting portion;] The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim 21, wherein said defined key code is related to a desirable characteristic of said printer component and said key element includes surface indicia thereon to visually indicate the desirable characteristic of said printer component.

27. (Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component with a printer of claim 2, wherein said on-axis printer component is an ink reservoir.

28. (Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component with a printer of claim 2, wherein said on-axis printer component is an ink/printhead cartridge.

29. (Amended) [The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component with a printer of claim 2, wherein said printer component is a] A mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead with a printer comprising:

a printhead mounting portion operably secured to the printer;

a separate key element secured to said printhead mounting portion, adjacent to said printhead;

at least one tab extending from the printhead, said at least one tab positioned and oriented in a defined and unique tab pattern thereby indicating a required characteristic of the printhead; and

said separate key element having at least one mating slot positioned and aligned to receive said at least one tab, thereby allowing the printhead to be operably secured to the printhead mounting portion and preventing similarly shaped printheads

that have a different tab pattern from being operably secured to the printhead mounting portion.

--31. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component with a printer having a carriage of claim 2, wherein said on-axis printer component is a printhead.

32. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component with a printer having a carriage of claim 2, wherein said separate key element is detachably secured to the component mounting portion.

33. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim 21, wherein said key element is detachably secured to said on-axis printer component mounting portion.

34. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim 21, wherein said printer is an inkjet printer.

35. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim 21, wherein said on-axis printer component is an ink reservoir.

36. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim 21, wherein said on-axis printer component is a printhead.

37. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead with a printer of claim 29, wherein said separate key element is detachably secured to said printhead mounting portion.

38. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead with a printer of claim 29, wherein said printer is an inkjet printer.

39. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead with a printer of claim 29, further including an on-axis ink reservoir in fluid

communication with said printhead.

40. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead with a printer of claim 29, wherein said separate key element includes surface indicia thereon to visually indicate the desirable characteristic of said printhead.

41. (Newly Added) A mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead having a defined key code thereon with a printer, said mechanism comprising:

a printhead mounting portion secured to the printer;

a discrete key element secured to the printhead mounting portion, adjacent to said printhead, said key element operably engaging the key code of the printer component to allow the printhead with the defined key code to be operably secured to the printhead mounting portion.

42. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim 41, wherein said discrete key element is detachably secured to the printer.

43. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim 41, wherein said separate key element includes surface indicia thereon to visually indicate the desirable characteristic of said printhead.--